

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088698

EXDIS, PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, BL

SUBJECT: GSA TIN SALES

1. IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS YOU MAY HAVE WITH BOLIVIANS
CONCERNING TIN SALES YOU MAY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- CURRENT OUTLOOK FOR DECONCINI/UDALL BILL IS SUCH THAT
ENACTMENT UNLIKELY BEFORE LATE JUNE AT EARLIEST.

-- NOTWITHSTANDING INTEREST ON THE PART OF BILL SPONSORS
TO ACQUIRE STOCKS OF COPPER, THE REQUIREMENT IN
LEGISLATION (SECTION 3 OF DRAFT BILL) THAT TIN SALES BE
CONDUCTED IN MANNER WHICH WILL PROTECT "PRODUCERS,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 088698

PROCESSORS AND CONSUMERS AGAINST AVOIDABLE DISRUPTION OF
THEIR USUAL MARKETS" WILL CONTROL RATE OF TIN SALES. THIS
POINT HAS BEEN STATED REPEATEDLY NOT ONLY BY THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH BUT ALSO HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY BY BILL SPONSORS.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER HAS CONFIRMED TO PRESIDENT BANZER IN
WRITING THAT WE WILL CONSULT WITH BOLIVIANS ON DISPOSAL

PROGRAM BEFORE ANY SALES ARE MADE.

-- INITIATION OF THE TIN SALES PROGRAM MUST, OF COURSE,AWAIT

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON DISPOSALS WHICH MAY BE
DELAYED BY THE PRESS OF OTHER CONGRESSIONAL BUSINESS. WE
CANNOT NOW DISCUSS WITH BOLIVIANS EITHER PRICE OR
QUANTITIES OF TIN WHICH MIGHT BE SOLD IN THE PERIOD AHEAD,
BUT THE RATE OF DISPOSAL WILL, OF COURSE, BE THE SUBJECT
OF CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING ENACTMENT OF DISPOSAL
LEGISLATION.

-- FALL IN TIN PRICE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADMINISTRA-
TION SUPPORT FOR DECONCINI/UDALL BILL IS, IN OUR VIEW,
A CORRECTION OF THE MARKET FOLLOWING SHARP PRICE INCREASES
IN PAST TWO YEARS DUE TO THE DEFICIT BETWEEN PRODUCTION
AND CONSUMPTION IN THE WORLD MARKET. A REGULAR GSA SALES
PROGRAM CAN THUS BE A SOURCE OF STABILITY TO TIN MARKET.
IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT OTHER TIN PRODUCERS HAVE
SUGGESTED THE U.S. INSTITUTE A MODERATE SALES PROGRAM.

-- WE HOPE BOLIVIANS WILL JOIN OTHER TIN PRODUCERS IN
RECOGNIZING LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO THEM OF A REGULAR GSA
SALES PROGRAM. VANCE

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